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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 11 June 2012, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Morejón ..... (Ecuador)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

2. **The Chair** informed the Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Azerbaijan, Liberia and Spain had indicated their wish to participate in the substantive session of the Committee during 2012.

Requests for hearing

3. **The Chair** drew attention to aides-memoires 05/12, 06/12, 07/12 and 08/12 relating to the Special Committee decision of 15 June 2009 concerning Puerto Rico and the questions of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Western Sahara and Guam, respectively. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to those requests.

4. *It was so decided.*

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (A/67/71; A/AC.109/2012/L.3)

5. **The Chair** drew the Committee's attention to the report of the Secretary General (A/67/71), which contained information provided by the administering Powers called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to a draft resolution on the issue (A/AC.109/2012/L.3).

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.3

6. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.3 was adopted.*

Question of the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2012/18; A/AC.109/2012/L.4)

7. **Mr. Ueki** (Department of Public Information), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2011 to March 2012 (A/AC.109/2012/18), said that, during the reporting period, the Department had issued 38 press releases and 10 news articles on the decolonization work of various United Nations bodies. It had also provided television and radio coverage, including webcasts of five events related to decolonization. Most recently, the Department had deployed a press officer to cover the Pacific regional seminar on decolonization, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June, and had compiled an information kit for distribution among the participants.

8. Prior to the seminar, in close collaboration with the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Public Information had developed a new visual identity for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In July 2011, the two Departments had collaborated to launch a redesigned and updated website on the United Nations and decolonization, in the six official languages.

9. The outreach activities of the Department of Public Information had continued to focus on educating the public about the process of decolonization and its current status and the Department's guided tours regularly covered the historical process of decolonization. The Dag Hammarskjöld library continued to provide research and information services on the topic of decolonization and had made documentation available on the Internet. The Department had continued to work closely with the Decolonization Unit, using both traditional and new information and communications technologies to stress the need for immediate and full implementation of the 1960 Declaration on decolonization. The work of the Special Committee remained at the centre of the Department's outreach activities with media, civil society and educational institutions.

10. **Mr. Streitz** (Department of Political Affairs) said that in the period under review, the Decolonization Unit had continued to disseminate information on decolonization in cooperation with all relevant entities of the Secretariat, especially the Department of Public Information. One joint accomplishment had been the elaboration of a new visual identity for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011-2020), already employed in the information kit and posters provided for the Pacific regional seminar convened in Quito.

11. The website on decolonization had been redesigned to feature the new visual identity and draw attention to the Third International Decade. The high web traffic to the site was testimony to its popularity. The Decolonization Unit handled the conceptual updating and expansion of the website from a substantive perspective, while the Department of Public Information experts dealt with design, linguistic and technical aspects of the site. As requested by the

Committee, the Unit would continue to maintain and develop the website as a tool for information-sharing and outreach on decolonization, making use of social media applications as appropriate.

12. The Unit's information activities had included preparation of the annual working papers on each of the 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories and organization of the 2012 Pacific regional seminar. The annual Pacific and Caribbean regional served as interactive forums for the open exchange of information on decolonization among the participants and attracted welcome media coverage. The Unit also continued to expand its roster of experts, academics and organizations specializing in decolonization and the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

13. Other outreach efforts included the provision of customized information on the work of the Special Committee to member States, representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, schools, civil society and individuals. The Unit also provided up-to-date information for the Department of Public Information's Visitors Services and for publications such as the Yearbook. Over the next year, the Unit would assist with updating the content of existing publications and leaflets on decolonization.

14. In view of the fresh mandate provided by the General Assembly's declaration of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Decolonization Unit would work with all concerned to anticipate information product needs and to develop priorities for the dissemination of information in implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee during the Third Decade.

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.4

16. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.4 was adopted.*

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

Draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.5

17. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2012/L.5 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.